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America's Career InfoNet

Occupation Profile



Selected Criteria:

Occupation: **Physical Therapist Assistants**

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State: **Montana**

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PHYSICAL THERAPIST ASSISTANTS: MONTANA

Occupation Description

Assist physical therapists in providing physical therapy treatments and procedures. May, in accordance with State laws, assist in the development of treatment plans, carry out routine functions, document the progress of treatment, and modify specific treatments in accordance with patient status and within the scope of treatment plans established by a physical therapist. Generally requires formal training.

Career Video



View career video with one of the following:



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[Additional videos](#) and more information available on CareerOneStop.

State and National Wages



Wage Table



Hourly Wage Chart



Yearly Wage Chart

Location	Pay Period	2009				
		10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
United States	Hourly	\$14.62	\$18.78	\$23.22	\$27.78	\$31.95
	Yearly	\$30,400	\$39,100	\$48,300	\$57,800	\$66,500
Montana	Hourly	\$12.76	\$16.21	\$18.78	\$21.21	\$23.59
	Yearly	\$26,500	\$33,700	\$39,100	\$44,100	\$49,100

[Occupation Wages FAQs](#)[Median Wage by Occupation Across States](#)[Compare Wages by Occupation and Local Area](#)[Compare Wages by Metropolitan Areas](#)National Data Source: [Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics Survey](#)State Data Source: [Montana Occupational Employment Statistics \(OES\) Wages](#)[Back to Top](#)**State and National Trends**

United States	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings ¹
	2008	2018		
Physical therapist assistants	63,800	85,100	+33%	3,050
Montana	Employment		Percent Change	Job Openings ¹
	2008	2018		
Physical therapist assistants	80	110	+28%	N/A

¹Job Openings refers to the average annual job openings due to growth and net replacement.[Occupation Trends FAQs](#)[Employment Trends by Occupation Across States](#)[Compare Employment Trends by Occupation](#)[Employment Trends by Industry and Occupation](#)National Data Source: [Bureau of Labor Statistics, Office of Occupational Statistics and Employment Projections](#)State Data Source: [Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Research and Analysis Bureau](#)[Back to Top](#)**Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities**The most important knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) are listed for **Physical Therapist Assistants**.**Knowledge:**

- **Customer and Personal Service** - Knowledge of principles and processes for providing customer and personal services. This includes customer needs assessment, meeting quality standards for services, and evaluation of customer satisfaction.
- **Therapy and Counseling** - Knowledge of principles, methods, and procedures for diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation of physical and mental dysfunctions, and for career counseling and guidance.
- **Medicine and Dentistry** - Knowledge of the information and techniques needed to diagnose and treat human injuries, diseases, and deformities. This includes symptoms, treatment alternatives, drug properties and interactions, and preventive health-care measures.
- **Education and Training** - Knowledge of principles and methods for curriculum and training design, teaching and instruction for individuals and groups, and the measurement of training effects.
- **Psychology** - Knowledge of human behavior and performance; individual differences in ability, personality, and interests; learning and motivation; psychological research methods; and the assessment and treatment of behavioral and affective disorders.

Skills:

- **Speaking** - Talking to others to convey information effectively.
- **Active Listening** - Giving full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, asking questions as appropriate, and not interrupting at inappropriate times.
- **Social Perceptiveness** - Being aware of others' reactions and understanding why they react as they do.
- **Monitoring** - Monitoring/Assessing performance of yourself, other individuals, or organizations to make improvements or take corrective action.
- **Coordination** - Adjusting actions in relation to others' actions.
- **Critical Thinking** - Using logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of alternative

- solutions, conclusions or approaches to problems.
- **Reading Comprehension** - Understanding written sentences and paragraphs in work related documents.
- **Writing** - Communicating effectively in writing as appropriate for the needs of the audience.

Abilities:

- **Oral Comprehension** - The ability to listen to and understand information and ideas presented through spoken words and sentences.
- **Oral Expression** - The ability to communicate information and ideas in speaking so others will understand.
- **Speech Clarity** - The ability to speak clearly so others can understand you.
- **Speech Recognition** - The ability to identify and understand the speech of another person.
- **Near Vision** - The ability to see details at close range (within a few feet of the observer).
- **Problem Sensitivity** - The ability to tell when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong. It does not involve solving the problem, only recognizing there is a problem.
- **Written Comprehension** - The ability to read and understand information and ideas presented in writing.

Source: [Occupational Information Network: Physical Therapist Assistants](#).

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Tasks and Activities

Occupation specific tasks and the most important generalized work activities are listed for **Physical Therapist Assistants**.

Occupation Specific Tasks:

- Administer active and passive manual therapeutic exercises, therapeutic massage, aquatic physical therapy, and heat, light, sound, and electrical modality treatments, such as ultrasound.
- Administer traction to relieve neck and back pain, using intermittent and static traction equipment.
- Assist patients to dress, undress, or put on and remove supportive devices, such as braces, splints, and slings.
- Attend or conduct continuing education courses, seminars, or in-service activities.
- Clean work area and check and store equipment after treatment.
- Communicate with or instruct caregivers and family members on patient therapeutic activities and treatment plans.
- Confer with physical therapy staff or others to discuss and evaluate patient information for planning, modifying, and coordinating treatment.
- Fit patients for orthopedic braces, prostheses, and supportive devices, such as crutches.
- Instruct, motivate, safeguard and assist patients as they practice exercises and functional activities.
- Measure patients' range-of-joint motion, body parts, and vital signs to determine effects of treatments or for patient evaluations.
- Monitor operation of equipment and record use of equipment and administration of treatment.
- Observe patients during treatments to compile and evaluate data on their responses and progress, and provide results to physical therapist in person or through progress notes.
- Perform clerical duties, such as taking inventory, ordering supplies, answering telephone, taking messages, and filling out forms.
- Perform postural drainage, percussions and vibrations, and teach deep breathing exercises to treat respiratory conditions.
- Prepare treatment areas and electrotherapy equipment for use by physiotherapists.
- Secure patients into or onto therapy equipment.
- Train patients in the use of orthopedic braces, prostheses, or supportive devices.
- Transport patients to and from treatment areas, lifting and transferring them according to positioning requirements.

Generalized Work Activities:

- **Assisting and Caring for Others** - Providing personal assistance, medical attention, emotional support, or other personal care to others such as coworkers, customers, or patients.
- **Getting Information** - Observing, receiving, and otherwise obtaining information from all relevant sources.
- **Documenting/Recording Information** - Entering, transcribing, recording, storing, or maintaining information in written or electronic/magnetic form.
- **Performing General Physical Activities** - Performing physical activities that require considerable use of your arms and legs and moving your whole body, such as climbing, lifting, balancing, walking, stooping, and handling of materials.
- **Communicating with Supervisors, Peers, or Subordinates** - Providing information to supervisors,

co-workers, and subordinates by telephone, in written form, e-mail, or in person.

Detailed Work Activities:

- administer medications or treatments
- apply traction
- assist in examining or treating dental or medical patients
- assist patient in performing breathing exercises
- assist patient with dressing, undressing, grooming, or bathing
- confer with physical therapy staff to discuss treatment
- construct medical supportive devices
- evaluate patient response to therapy
- fit medical supportive devices
- fit patients for prosthetic device, using static or dynamic alignment
- instruct patient in use of supportive device
- instruct patients in methods to improve functional activities
- inventory medical supplies or instruments
- lift or transport ill or injured patients
- maintain dental or medical records
- monitor medical oxygen equipment
- motivate patients to practice exercises
- observe patient condition
- order or purchase supplies, materials, or equipment
- plan therapy treatment program
- position patient for therapy
- prepare medical treatment room
- prepare patient reports
- prepare patients for tests, therapy, or treatments
- record medical history or data
- retrieve files or charts
- schedule meetings or appointments
- set up patient care equipment
- take messages
- take vital signs
- use knowledge of medical terminology
- use massage therapy procedures
- use medical equipment in direct patient care
- use physical therapy equipment or materials
- weigh patients
- work with persons with mental disabilities or illnesses

Source: [Occupational Information Network: Physical Therapist Assistants](#).

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Tools and Technology

Physical Therapist Assistants [View Detailed Report](#)

Tools:

- **Back or lumbar or sacral orthopedic softgoods** - Back braces, Sacro-iliac joint lumbar corsets
- **Balance beams or boards or bolsters or rockers for rehabilitation or therapy** - Balance beams, Balance boards
- **Canes or cane accessories** - Quad canes, Single point canes
- **Patient care beds or accessories for specialty care** - Roto beds, Standing cages, Standing tables, Tilt tables
- **Walkers or rollators** - Front-wheel walkers, Hemi walkers, Pick-up walkers, Platform walkers, Reciprocating walkers

Technology:

- **Accounting software** - Accounting software, Billing software, Bookkeeping software
- **Action games** - Video game software, Virtual reality game software
- **Calendar and scheduling software** - Scheduling software, SpectraSoft AppointmentsPRO
- **Data base user interface and query software** - FileMaker Pro software, Microsoft Access, dBase
- **Medical software** - Arena Health Systems Phys-X, Beaver Creek Software The THERAPIST, BioEx Systems Exercise Pro, Client caseload management software, Eazy Application Systems QuickEMR

Source: [Occupational Information Network: Physical Therapist Assistants](#).

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Education and Training

Occupation: Physical Therapist Assistants

Most Common Educational/Training Level: Associate degree

Related Instructional Programs: Physical Therapist Assistant

Distribution of Educational Attainment

Occupation	Percent of employees aged 25 to 44 in the occupation whose highest level of educational attainment is						
	Less than high school diploma	High school diploma or equivalent	Some college, no degree	Associate's degree	Bachelor's degree	Master's degree	Doctoral or professional degree
Physical therapist assistants	2.6%	10.6%	15.9%	50.5%	16.1%	3.1%	1.1%
Occupational and Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides	2%	6%	13%	62.3%	13.8%	2.1%	0.9%
Healthcare Support	6%	24.6%	29.2%	26.6%	10.5%	1.7%	1.4%
Total, All Occupations	10.7%	27.6%	20.6%	8.9%	19.4%	8.3%	4.5%

Find [colleges](#), [training schools](#) and [instructional programs](#) for this occupation.

Access additional [Education Resources](#) in the Career Resource Library.

Use the [Financial Aid Advisor](#) to help find funds for financing education.

WIA Eligible Training Provider List: <http://www.mtjobline.com/training.asp>

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Office of Occupational Statistics and Employment Projections (Education/Training Level, Educational Attainment); National Center for Education Statistics (Typical Instructional Programs)

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Related Occupation Profiles

Occupations with similar skill requirements

- [Athletic Trainers](#)
- [Child, Family, and School Social Workers](#)
- [Physical Therapists](#)
- [Recreational Therapists](#)
- [Social and Human Service Assistants](#)

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Web Resources

The following resources are related to occupations in the job family
Healthcare Support

[Nursing, Psychiatric, and Home Health Aides](#)
[Occupational and Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides](#)
[Other Healthcare Support Occupations](#)

Nursing, Psychiatric, and Home Health Aides

- [Caregiver](#), The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society

- [Home Health Aides](#), CareerZone
- [Home Health Aides](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Home Health Support Occupations](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Licensed Practical Nurses](#), Job Futures
- [Nurse Aides, Orderlies and Patient Service Associates](#), Job Futures
- [Nursing Aides and Orderlies](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Nursing and Psychiatric Aides](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook

Occupational and Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides

- [Critical-Care Nurse](#), Nurses for a Healthier Tomorrow
- [Neuroscience Nurse](#), Nursing Spectrum
- [Occupational Therapist Assistants and Aides](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Occupational Therapy Occupations](#), American Medical Association
- [Physical Therapist Assistants and Aides](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Physical Therapy Aides and Assistants](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Physical Therapy Occupations](#), American Medical Association

Other Healthcare Support Occupations

- [Dental Assistant](#), American Dental Association
- [Dental Assistants](#), Job Futures
- [Dental Assistants](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Dental Assistants](#), CareerZone
- [Dental Assistants](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Dental Related Occupations](#), American Medical Association
- [Massage therapists](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Massage Therapy](#), American Massage Therapy Association
- [Medical Assistant](#), American Medical Association
- [Medical Assistants](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Medical Assistants](#), CareerZone
- [Medical Assistants](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Medical equipment preparers](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Medical Transcriptionists](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook
- [Medical Transcriptionists](#), California Occupational Guide
- [Veterinary assistants and laboratory animal caretakers](#), Occupational Outlook Handbook

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